

### NATURAL Vs SYNTHETIC TURF

*"Until man duplicates a blade of grass, nature can laugh at his so called scientific knowledge." - Thomas Edison*

MYTH: Synthetic turf saves money because of its longevity.

**FACT: While the factors influencing costs vary from field to field, construction costs for an artificial turf field generally far outweigh construction costs for a natural field.**

MYTH: Because artificial turf is synthetic, it will last forever.

**FACT: Artificial turf has a projected lifespan of approximately 8 years - some as little as 4 years, does not have the regenerative properties of natural turf, and requires significant additional costs for removal and disposal.**

MYTH: Because artificial turf is synthetic, it can endure endless use without the need for maintenance.

**FACT: Artificial turf requires regular as well as semi-annual maintenance, including the addition of infill, clean-up of dropped or thrown objects and repair and restoration from wear, the same as natural grass.**

MYTH: Artificial surfaces can be played on at any time.

**FACT: Temperatures on the surface of artificial turf can sometimes reach more than half again the air temperature causing dangerous burns with water providing cooling only for a limited time.**

MYTH: New-generation artificial turf utilizes sand and rubber-based infill to minimize injuries from skids and falls.

**FACT: The abrasiveness from the sand and rubber impacts sports players in the form of turf burns which open the way to infection.**

MYTH: Artificial turf is better for the environment because it doesn't require the resources of natural grass.

**FACT: While natural grass requires water and pest control to remain healthy, its resulting benefits to the environment far outweigh those costs.**

MYTH: Artificial turf is just as good as natural grass in every way.

**FACT: Although no related research on artificial turf is currently available, studies have shown that natural grass has a positive emotional, as well as visual, impact on humans.**



### In this issue:

- natural Vs synthetic turf
- advanced seed at the upcoming agcsa show
- antep field day
- evergreen turf covers
- yarraville oval
- salt tolerance in turfgrass
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### ADVANCED SEED AT THE UPCOMING AGCSA SHOW

Come & visit us at this year's Turfgrass Conference & Trade Exhibition.

'Our New Tomorrow' will look at the issues, challenges and the solutions of the next decade.

**We will be there: 23-24th July, 2008**

**Where: Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre**

### ANTEP FIELD DAY

The ASF TGAA (*Turfgrass Association of Victoria*) in conjunction with the ASF Turf & Lawn Seed Committee held a very successful field day seminar at the site of the ANTEP 3 perennial ryegrass and tall fescue trials. With the completion of first year trial results it was seen as timely to invite turf industry members along to view the turf plots and be briefed on trial data to date.

A series of presentations were presented to members. Service provider consultant Andrew Peart from AGCSA Tech provided the group with an insight into the history of ANTEP, turf seed breeding, testing, ryegrass development and new improved seed couches. Cameron also spoke about global pressures on turf seed markets and urged them to brace themselves for serious price increases in the future.

The day finished with a machinery demonstration from Turf Care & Hire from Geelong which importantly featured oversowing seeding equipment.

The day was an outstanding success and again highlighted the interest in the ANTEP trials throughout the turf industry.



**ANTEP FIELD DAY @ MT SCOPUS**

# EVERGREEN

The Evergreen Turf Covers have been developed as an essential management tool for ongoing Turf Managers. It will protect established turf areas, and accelerate turf growth for new constructions. It can be used repeatedly and is long lasting.

## Benefits:

- ◆ Being permeable it allows air, water and light penetration which makes it ideal for new seeding and oversowing.
- ◆ Accelerates turf growth providing rapid germination.
- ◆ Evergreen protects seed from high winds, heavy rainfall and birds.
- ◆ It is environmentally friendly, utilizing less water and chemicals.
- ◆ Can be cut or trimmed without fraying or damage.
- ◆ Is lightweight making it easy to handle and will not smother or flatten the turf surface.

Evergreen Turf Covers are available from Advanced Seed in 3 sizes;

**Small 76sqm blanket (25m x 3.04m)**

**Medium 858sqm blanket (21.3m x 40.2m)**

**Large 1495sqm blanket (21.3m x 70.1m)**



## YARRAVILLE OVAL—CITY OF MARIBYRNONG

The success of using seeded couch has again been highlighted at the City of Maribyrnong's Yarraville Sportsfield. The oval is used for both cricket and football and has for many years been a cool season grass surface.

With the obvious pressures of drought, the council through its turf manager Mark Scholes decided to convert the ground to warm season couch grass. With the assistance of an Advanced Seed distributor Scott Kempster of Independent Turf Services, a complete programme of conversion was undertaken. A blend of 70% Riviera & 30% La Prima seeded couch was selected and following the removal of all other grasses with glyphosate 10 days prior, the oval was sown on 18th December, 2008. Seed was sown at a rate of 75kg / Ha over the 1.8 Ha site via drill seeding method by contractors Sportsgrass Pty. Ltd. Emergence of seed was evident 14 days after sowing and the ground re-opened for cricket 7 weeks after sowing. At this stage the surface was approximately 80-90% covered.

Importantly a disciplined maintenance programme was adhered to including the use of a starter fertilizer at sowing time and additional fertilizer application at 30 days. Wetting agent was applied at 7 days and post seeding herbicides were used to remove any unwanted competition from weeds some 25 days after sowing. Crucial to the success of this project were the irrigation practices with careful effort made to ensure the seed bed remained moist.

The oval has now been oversown with Axcella 2, a turf type annual ryegrass that will provide protection from winter play and will be removed this spring.



18 days after sowing



7 weeks after sowing

## SALT TOLERANCE IN TURFGRASS

Salt tolerance of turfgrass varieties in Australia is becoming increasingly important due to the continuation of drought and the use of high salt water for irrigation purposes.

A salt problem is often seen as a white (salt) crust on the soil surface. Turf areas with high soluble salt levels can suffer from disease problems, poor drought tolerance and root damage. Excess salt usually becomes more of a problem in heavy soils, where adequate drainage is absent.

Salty turf areas can be sown with a single salt tolerant grass. If a mixture is used then the grasses that are unable to tolerate salts in the soil will die out and the resistant varieties survive.

Leaching salts and the use of salt tolerant grasses can often help remedy the situation. However, the only solution could be the use of salt tolerant grasses.

At recent evaluation tests in the US on the germination and establishment of turf type perennial ryegrasses at 10,000 ppm & 12,000 ppm salt concentration, 2 fine leaf varieties SR4220 & SR4420 consistently demonstrated higher salt tolerance than the check varieties.

These varieties could help the Turf Manager overcome turfgrass salt problems.



SR4220 - RYEGRASS



TURF WICKET MIX

## HANDY HINT FOR WINTER

Consider planting a transitional ryegrass. They have the ability to germinate more readily than regular perennial ryegrass in cooler conditions.

An important asset for sportsfield repair in winter.